



Lower Merion School District

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LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Vol. 2, No. 2 – Highlights from the September 19, 2016 Business Meeting

For a complete agenda, visit the BoardDocs section of the District Website. [Click here](#) to view.

RECOGNITION

WV Teacher Frances Weaver Honored by Board

The Board honored Welsh Valley social studies teacher Frances Weaver, one of five national recipients of the Southern Poverty Law Center's 2016 [Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Teaching](#). The award is given biennially to "visionary classroom teachers based on their dedication to diverse students and their demonstration of teaching practices that exemplify the Teaching Tolerance (TT) mission: reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relationships and promoting equity in schools."

Weaver was named one of ten finalists for the honor in the spring, advancing from a competitive national pool of applicants who demonstrated skills in three areas: masterful ability to teach the skills students need to thrive in diverse settings, achieve academically and work collaboratively; (2) use of research and innovation to drive and evolve their practice; and (3) support for TT's mission to reduce prejudice, improve intergroup relations and promote equity through their leadership outside the classroom.

At the end of the school year, TT staff visited Welsh Valley as a part of a national tour to observe awardees in action. Following the visit, TT created a video to honor Weaver's work. To view, [click here](#).

PRESENTATIONS

BCMS Enrollment

Bala Cynwyd Middle School Principal Jason Potten provided an update on enrollment growth at BCMS and potential impacts on space and academic programs. To view a slideshow of the presentation, [click here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE - RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Superintendent Robert Copeland shared the following recent highlights and achievements from LMSD schools:

Cal's Cupcake Challenge

This Saturday marks the 4th Annual Cal's Cupcake Challenge at Cynwyd Elementary School, a fun-filled afternoon of raising awareness and funds for leukodystrophy research and the Calliope Joy Foundation. The event honors Calliope Joy Carr – nicknamed Cal – the youngest child of Cynwyd parents Pat Carr and Maria Kefalas. Cal was diagnosed with leukodystrophy at age 2 in 2012. Cal is now six years old and lives with her family in Bala Cynwyd. Leukodystrophies are a group of disorders that affect the white matter of the brain. Children with leukodystrophies are born healthy but start regressing, losing the ability to crawl, walk, speak, eat, smile and laugh.

The Cynwyd community has embraced the cause and has played a key role in advancing progress over the past few years through the Cupcake Challenge, which features a children's cupcake baking competition, games, crafts and 5,000 cupcakes from the region's best bakers. The event will be held Saturday, September 24th rain or shine from 10 AM – 3 PM. For more information, [click here](#).

Harriton Alumnus, Former Teacher Launch Culinary Program for Underserved Youth

A Harriton alumnus and former teacher [have been in the news recently](#) for a collaboration that is bringing culinary programs to underserved youth. Alon Shaya, Class of '97, is a James Beard-Award winning chef, whose New Orleans restaurant was named Best New Restaurant in America in 2016. He and his Harriton home economics teacher Donna Barnett – whom Shaya credits for “turning around” his life and giving him his career direction – have teamed up to launch a fund called the Shaya Barnett initiative which purchases cooking equipment and other items needed for culinary education programs in underserved communities in New Orleans.

Green Schools Visit

Representatives of the US Department of Education will be visiting Harriton High School next week as part of a “Green Strides” tour of United States Green Ribbon Schools Award Winners. LMSD was part of the initial class of Green Ribbon District Award-winners in 2013, cited for its commitment to reducing environmental impacting and costs, improving health and wellness of students and staff and effective environmental and sustainability education. At Harriton – a LEED-GOLD certified school -- visitors will meet with staff and students to learn more about the green features of the school’s design, environmental education in the District as well as LMSD’s award-winning CNG bus fleet and green-cleaning program.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff and coaching hires for the 2016-17 school year. The Board also approved independent consultant agreements with former LMSD administrators Nort Seaman and Mark Klein to provide professional and administrative services, including mentoring for new principals in the District.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACTIONS

Among the items approved by the Board included the purchase of a differentiated literacy package from Achieve3000 and an online-advance elementary and secondary differentiated package from World Book Inc.

STUDENT SERVICES ACTIONS

Among the items approved by the Board included independent consultant agreements with: Achieve3000 to provide engaging, nonfiction content that supports core curriculum and addresses the literacy needs of special education students with reading needs at the secondary level; the Chester County Intermediate Unit for CPI training (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention) that provides staff with essential training in a safe behavior management system with an emphasis on prevention, de-escalation, personal safety, and physical intervention; and the American Red Cross to provide CPR training for the district instructional aides.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

The Board approved a List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities & Purchasing Committee as well as the August 2016 LMSD Financial Report.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Bid awarded to Reed Associates for wood laboratory casework for the District Administration Building classroom renovations...License agreement approved with My Turn to Drive School for classroom drivers education instruction at Lower Merion and Harriton high schools for the 2016-17 school year...Renewal of independent consulting agreement with Paula Singer for consultation and coordination of the District’s high school girls leadership clubs, conference and programming for the 2016-17 school year...Quote approved from Presidio Networked Solutions for Lancope support renewal for the 2016-17 school year...Proposal approved from Barry Isett and Associates for Underground Basin inspections at LMHS and HHS...Work order approved for Clean Fuels Consulting to provide grant administration and preparation services...Approval of submission of Plancon Part I; Interim Reporting, to the Department of Education for the Welsh Valley Additions and Alterations project...Change orders approved for modular classroom space at PWES and additions and alterations at WVMS...Change orders approved for additions and alterations at WVMS, subject to PDE approval of PlanCon Part I submission.

Additionally, the Board approved a declaration to satisfy conditions imposed by Lower Merion Township with regard to parking requirements in connection with the construction of additional classrooms at Penn Wynne Elementary Schools. The District sought approval from the Township to not install ten parking spaces that otherwise would have

been required and to hold those spaces in reserve. The Township granted the District's application, conditioned upon the District agreeing in a recorded covenant to install those spaces if and when the zoning officer determines that they are needed to accommodate the use of the property.

POLICY

The following policies were reviewed for a first reading by the Policy Committee: Policy 104 (Equal Opportunity Employment); Policy 244 (Research by Outside Entities); and Policy 261 (Anti-Hazing). Also considered is a policy on "Private Coaching or Training of Students by District Athletic Coaches," which returns to the committee for further review.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved the election of the PSBA Officers as listed:

Insurance Trust Positions:

William S. LaCoff (Owen J. Roberts SD), PSBA Immediate Past President

Kathy K. Swope (Lewisberg SD), PSBA President

Mark B. Miller (Centennial SD), PSBA President-Elect

Marianne L. Neel (West Jefferson Hills, SD), PSBA Past President

Michael Faccineto (Bethlehem Area SD), PSBA Vice President

President Elect (one year term):

Michael Faccineto, Bethlehem Area SD (Northampton Co.)

Vice President (one year term):

David Hutchinson, State College SD (Centre Co.).

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Upcoming Meeting Dates: September 21 Communications Committee @ 7:00 PM; October 5 Curriculum Committee @ 8:30 AM; October 7 Policy Committee @ 8:30 AM; October 10 Education Committee & Supplementary Regular Board @ 8:00 PM; October 13 Facilities/Purchasing Committee @ 8:30 AM; October 17 Regular Business Board @ 8:00 PM; October 19 Communications Committee @ 8:30 AM and October 26 Legislative Committee @ 8:30 AM.

LMSD BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS is distributed to the community and staff of Lower Merion School District to highlight actions taken at Board Meetings. It is not intended to take the place of the minutes of the meeting. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings; for information, visit www.lmsd.org.